

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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/054 W

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R 011733Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0760

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, ELAB, CA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE MONTREAL POLICE STRIKE

1. MONTREAL POLICE HAVE BEEN STALEMATED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MONTREAL URBAN COMMUNITY (MUC) FOR FOUR YEARS OVER PENSION FUND ARRANGEMENTS. MUC'S PROPOSAL WOULD, ACCORDING TO POLICE BROTHERHOOD, RESULT IN SOME OFFICERS RECEIVING LESS THAN UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

2. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WERE BROKEN OFF IN MID-APRIL, APPROXIMATELY 3,000 ANGRY OFF-DUTY POLICE STAGED A NOISY BUT PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT THE OLYMPIC SITE AND, IN ESSENCE, GAVE MUC A VEILED ULTIMATUM TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE BY APRIL 30 OR ELSE.

3. PROSPECTS FOR STRIKE LOOKED SERIOUS BY LAST EVENING WHEN ISSUE STILL UNRESOLVED AND BROTHERHOOD ANNOUNCED A MEETING FOR MAY 1 TO DETERMINE NEXT STEP. PREMIER BOURASSA REQUESTED AT MIDNIGHT THAT HE BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS "EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT." ALLEGEDLY BY COINCIDENCE, CANADIAN ARMY ENGAGED IN A "NO NOTICE, ROUTINE MANEUVER" CODE-NAMED PAR EXCELLENCE TO "TEST MOBILITY", LAST NIGHT WHICH RESULTED IN SOME 300 MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES SUDDENLY ARRIVING EARLY THIS MORNING AT A BASE IN ST. HUBERT, ABOUT 15-20

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MILES FROM MONTREAL. NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING

THE TIME SUCH TROOPS WILL BE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. EVERYONE REMEMBERS, HOWEVER, THE TERRORIZATION OF THE CITY DURING A ONE-DAY POLICE STRIKE IN 1969 AND THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT NECESSARY STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE MONTREALERS' SAFETY IF THE POLICE DO GO OUT.

4. HALF OF CITY'S POLICE ATTENDED MEETING THIS MORNING AND THREATENED A "STUDY SESSION" BUT IN VOTE DECIDED TO GIVE BROTHERHOOD ANOTHER WEEK TO GET BETTER OFFER FROM AUTHORITIES. OBVIOUS POSSIBILITY EXISTS THEY WILL GO OUT IF THAT DEADLINE NOT SATISFACTORILY MET.
HARPER

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